

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
Location: Redmond, WA
March 13, 2002

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Sarah Spence
Harry “Jay” Follman
Lee A. James
Duane Henderson
Richard Gilda
Grant Jensen
Les Olsen
Alan J. Cabodi

Absent

Don Evans
Brad Rosewood
Laura L. Parsons

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of February 13, 2002 Meeting Minutes
3. Federal Testimony Update for House Bill 3609
4. Letter to Representative Young
5. Changes at Williams Gas Pipeline – West
6. Public Comment
7. Subcommittee Reports
8. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Pipeline Division Update
9. Items for Future Meeting Agenda

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
2. **Adoption of February 13, 2002 Meeting Minutes** – The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2002 meeting without modifications.

Federal Testimony Update for House Bill 3609 – Chuck Mosher spoke to the Committee about the pipeline safety bill that was introduced by Representative Don Young, R-Alaska (house bill 3609). A hearing for the bill was held by the House Transportation Highways and Transit Subcommittee in Washington D.C. on February 13th. Washington State had two speakers, Marlene Robinson, mother of Liam Woods,

and Chuck Mosher, Chairman of the Committee, who testified before the subcommittee. In his remarks, Chuck urged lawmakers to:

- Increase state oversight (Interstate authority).
- Require integrity management plans for pipeline companies.
- Mandate operator training/qualifications.
- Work with local communities.
- Provide adequate funding for pipeline safety.

Chuck said that the Senate passed the Senators John McCain and Patty Murray amendment to the Senate energy bill related to pipeline safety. Also, Representatives Jennifer Dunn and Rick Larsen are working to get a House bill passed. The Washington delegation is cooperating to get a pipeline bill passed through Congress.

3. **Letter to Representative Young** – Lee James talked to the Committee about a letter that the Legislative/Input/Monitoring Subcommittee drafted for the Committee as a whole to send to Congress. Lee asked for any comments on the letter.

Les Olsen asked how difficult is it to provide mapping information to local governments. Grant Jensen didn't feel it was a problem and Duane Henderson said that it would only be problematic if it included distribution system maps, which change quite often. The question was asked: What would be a logical break point for information provided to local governments? Duane answered by saying that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) gives cities/counties information on their high-pressure backbone system only. An amendment was suggested to the letter in light of the mapping information conversation above. Within the bullet point "Work with Local Communities", the Committee suggested the phrase, "information about their facilities" be inserted instead of the word "maps". WUTC staff noted the change. The letter will be revised, sent to Chuck for signature, and then sent to Congress.

5. **Changes at Williams Gas Pipeline – West** – Grant Jensen, Committee member and Redmond district manager for Williams Gas Pipeline – West, presented information to the Committee on recent changes within the pipeline company. He informed the Committee that Williams is selling its Kern River Transmission facility. The facility is 900 miles of 36-inch natural gas pipeline running from Wyoming to Bakersfield California. The buyer is Berkshire Hathaway. Grant also told the Committee about some recent personnel changes. Bob Sluder and Mike Falk are leaving Williams to go with the new company that is purchasing the Kern River Line. The new operations manager will be named soon.

Richard Gilda asked Grant about the proposed Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) pipeline in Whatcom County. Richard heard that land agents have said that the GSX pipeline would put \$2 million dollars in taxes into Whatcom County if it were built. Grant said that he would find out this information and share it with the Committee. Grant's opinion was that it would probably turn out to be \$ 2 million dollars in "economic benefits" rather than direct taxes.

Next, the Committee viewed a video of the Nooksack River crossing of William's 26-inch pipeline. A section of this pipeline has been exposed by river scouring and is planned for replacement during 2002. The video was the product of an underwater inspection of the line by a contractor to Williams. The video showed that the pipe was essentially sound, with approximately 6 lineal feet of pipeline exposed along the riverbed. The Committee then viewed another short video of the White River, shot by Williams after two pipelines had been exposed due to the river changing course. Grant wanted to make the distinction between the situation at the Nooksack, which is serious but not dangerous, and the White where the pipelines were in imminent danger of being ruptured by the forces of the river. Grant stated that Williams had declared the White River situation to be an "emergency" when it sought permits to mitigate the situation. In contrast, Williams has not declared the Nooksack situation to be an "emergency" and is proceeding through the permit process more normally. Grant commented that it would be nice for all state counties to do permitting in a similar way so that one county or another wouldn't require information that requires a specialist to produce where others do not.

6. Public Comment

Dan Cummings, BP/Olympic Pipeline Company – Dan notified the Committee of the availability of Olympic's report on the plan for restoration of Whatcom creek. The title of the report is "Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the June 10, 1999, Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill into Whatcom Creek, Bellingham, Washington".

The report can be accessed on the Internet at the following address:

www.darcnw.noaa.gov/whatcom.htm. This link will also be provided on the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety website located at

www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops. Any comments about the report are due by April 8, 2002 and can be sent to Doug Helton with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) via e-mail at: doug.helton.noaa.gov.

7. Subcommittee Reports – The Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety subcommittees met individually and then reported back to the group as a whole.

Damage Prevention –

Chair, Don Evans (Absent), Members - Duane Henderson, Richard Gilda

- Education focus – look at educating grade schoolers on gas safety and the One-Call message.
- The question was asked: What does the Utilities Coordinating Council (UCC) do towards education?
Future Agenda Item: Ask someone from the One-Call locator center to provide an update/information to the Committee on what they do towards general public awareness education. The Committee wondered if the UCC's education focus is more on contractors or do they distribute public education information as well?
- Action Item: Damage prevention subcommittee asked WUTC to make some inquiries and get some estimates on how much it would cost to get one-call ads onto one of the front pages of the phone book along with other emergency or essential services information.

**Pipeline Safety Public Awareness Subcommittee –
Chair, Brad Rosewood, Members - Les Olsen, Laura Parsons**

- Les reminded the Committee of the current process of obtaining a Governor proclamation to establish a pipeline safety and education day. The draft proclamation was handed out for the review of the Committee. Les asked the Committee to contact him if there were any proposed changes or additions for the proclamation. Duane Henderson suggested coupling the Governor proclamation with special activities with the Underground Locating Coordinating Council (ULCC) for education, etc.
Action Item: Ask Tim Sweeney with WUTC to talk to the Committee about how the WUTC public affairs division could assist the Committee on press releases and a newsletter.
- Les told the Committee how they are working on a pipeline awareness brochure/pamphlet. Brad Rosewood is the lead on this particular project and was not able to attend the meeting. Les decided to postpone this item until the next meeting.
- Call-Before-You-Dig Billboards – Committee could look for funding or cities/counties may be interested in supporting this idea as a public service announcement (PSA). Further research into what Bellingham did to obtain a call-before-you-dig billboard will need to be done to determine if this could be used as a model.

Legislative/Input/Monitoring – Chair, Lee James Members – Jay Follman, Chuck Mosher & Grant Jensen

- Lee will call Washington State Representative Kelli Linville following session regarding what the Committee and other interested persons could do to get a damage prevention bill into the 2003 legislative session.
- Discussed drafting a report to the Governor's office on the Committee's work/progress since the Committee was founded in October 2000. The Committee would like the report to include some evaluation of the WUTC's activities during 2001.
Future Agenda Item and Action: WUTC staff will draft a report for the Committee's review pertaining to the WUTC's inspection activities during 2001, which will include compliance actions. The Committee will review the report and make a judgment/comments on the WUTC's pipeline safety program to the Governor's office. An additional request was made to have a pipeline safety engineer from the WUTC staff to do a presentation on an inspection for the Committee.

8. WUTC Pipeline Safety Division Update –

Doug Kilpatrick provided an update on WUTC pipeline safety program activities. He stated that the program's workplan for 2002 had been finalized and that pipeline safety inspectors were planning and conducting inspections. Doug told the Committee that the agency's hazardous liquid pipeline rulemaking was moving forward and that a public

workshop would be held on April 3, 2002 to receive additional comments and input on draft rule language. Doug encouraged any Committee members with interest to attend the workshop either in person or through the Commission's conference bridge line.

9. Items for Future Meeting Agendas – The Committee would like to have the following items on future meeting agendas:

- More information on the DOE rulemaking
- Inspection report from WUTC engineer
- Request from Les Olsen for an update on emergency management lessons/activities since June 1999, possibly from the Washington State Association of Emergency Managers.
- Request to have someone from the Fire Marshall's office speak to the Committee about their Incident Command System (ICS) training program.

Location of April meeting: Duane Henderson offered the PSE Bellevue office's auditorium as a possible meeting location. The Committee decided to hold the April 10th meeting at the PSE Bellevue location.